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WELSH BUREAU OF HEALTH  
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10 SEP 1957

RHAYADER  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1956





# Members of the Council

Year 1956

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*Chairman:* Councillor E. T. K. MORGAN, J.P., C.C.

*Vice-Chairman:* Councillor A. E. OAKLEY

## *Councillors :*

D. H. Bound	Lt. Col. J. L. Philips, ,
O. P. Davies	D.S.O., J.P.
R. P. L. Hughes, C.C.	A. H. Price
R. E. P. Jones	C. H. Price
I. J. Lewis	J. C. Price
S. E. Lloyd	J. T. L. Price
J. F. Mills	W. A. Probert
G. D. Morgan	A. Thompson
T. J. Owen	J. D. Williams

Public Health and Housing Committee. Finance Committee  
All Members of the Council

## *Medical Officer of Health*

J. D. O'M. POOLE, M.B., Ch.B.  
(General Practitioner and part-time M.O.H.)

## *Public Health Inspector*

G. H. ROBERTS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
(Cert.—S.I.E.J.B. and Meat and Other Foods of R.S.I.)

BRYNCOED

RHAYADER

7th February, 1957

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RHAYADER

Sirs,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the state of the public health in the Rhayader Rural District in the year 1956.

During this period the weather was, for the most part, exceptionally wet and only in the earlier part of the year was there any notable sunshine. As a consequence of these conditions we did not at any time experience a shortage of water supplies as we have done in the past on the occurrence of any prolonged period of drought.

The new sewage disposal scheme for Rhayader and for the improvement of the water conduit system had made considerable progress by the end of the year.

With regard to water supplies throughout the district it may be reported that as a consequence of schemes proposed and schemes started, all the main centres of population will be provided with piped water supplies.

Work has been started on a site for sixteen units of accommodation in Cwmdauddwr.

A clearance area scheme was prepared and submitted to the Ministry concerning a group of seven houses at Newbridge-on-Wye. However, work had not been started on the provision of alternative accommodation by the end of the year.

I remain, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

J. D. O.'M. POOLE, M.B., Ch.B.

*Medical Officer of Health*

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area of District	...	...	...	...	91,240 acres
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	4,260
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	1,285
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£88,058
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£358

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## HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The District is served by one part-time Medical Officer, a Surveyor and one Public Health Inspector. A Rodent Operative is shared with Knighton Rural District Council.

Six nurses provide a home nursing service.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Aberystwyth, carry out analyses of milk, water and histological examination of diseased animals slaughtered at the local abattoir. I am grateful to Dr. Sudds and her staff for their ready assistance.

Chemical analyses and examination of milk for fat content are done by the County Analyst, Carmarthen.

Post-natal, mothers and childrens welfare clinics are held monthly.

Clinics are available at Llandrindod Wells for Tuberculosis and at Hereford for Venereal Disease. The Chest Physician holds a weekly clinic at Llandrindod Wells.

There are no hospitals in the district but hospital services are provided at Knighton, Llandrindod Wells, Shrewsbury, Gobowen, Birmingham, Llanidloes and Aberystwyth. The facilities include the services of specialists in all branches of Medicine and Surgery.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births

		Male	Female	Corrected Rate per per 1,000	Approx. Rate for England and Wales
<b>Live Births</b>					
Legitimate	...	26	27		
Illegitimate	...	—	2		
Totals	...	26	29	16.5	15.5
<b>Still Births</b>					
Legitimate	...	1	1		
Illegitimate	...	—	—		
Totals	...	1	1	0.6	0.3
Rate Per 1,000 Births				35.0	22.4

### Deaths

All causes	...	37	31	14.5	11.4
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### Deaths of Infants

Under 1 month	—	1			
Under 1 year	...	—	1		

### Causes of Death

					Male	Female
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	3	2
" " Uterus	...	...	...	...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	4	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	4	4
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	8	6
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	2	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	1
Nephritis, nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	...	...	...	3	10
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	...	...	...	...	2	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	1
					37	31

## PREVALENCE OF DISEASE

### Notifiable Diseases

		No. of Cases Notified
Measles	...	3
Pneumonia	...	4
Phthysis	...	1
Pertussis ...	...	0
Erysipelas	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	3
		—
Total		12

### Tuberculosis

No. of cases on register :		
	Female	Male
Pulmonary ...	5	7
Non Pulmonary	2	3
	—	—
Total	7	10

New cases notified—1 male pulmonary

### Immunisation—Diphtheria

		Number
Under 1 year	...	29
Age 1 year	...	5
Age 2 years	...	—
Age 3 years	...	1
Age 4 years	...	—
Age 5-9 years	...	4
Age 10-14 years	...	1
Age 15 years	...	—
		—
Total		40

### Whooping Cough Innoculations

		Number
Under 1 year	...	25
Age 1 year	...	7
Age 2 years	...	—
Age 3 years	...	1
Age 4 years	...	—
Age 5-9 years	...	3
Age 10-14 years	...	—
Age 15 years	...	—
		—
Total		36

## Vaccinations

	Number
Under 1 year ...	13
Age 1 year ...	4
Age 2 years ...	4
Age 3 years ...	1
Age 4 years ...	1
Age 5-9 years ...	—
Age 10-14 years ...	—
Age 15 years ...	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

## PUBLIC HEALTH - INSPECTIONS

### Details of Inspections

	Visits	Re-visits	Total
Rural Housing Survey—Houses ...	13	8	21
Allocation of Council Houses ...	89	10	99
Inspections for Statutory Purposes :			
Housing Acts ...	14	72	86
Public Health Acts ...	2	5	7
Overcrowding ...	5	—	5
Inspections for Informal Action re :			
Stopped drains ...	9	9	18
Sanitary defects ...	6	9	15
Sewer connections ...	22	42	64
Water Supplies			
Farms ...	34	32	66
Other houses, etc. ...	42	30	72
Drains inspected... ...	11	6	17
Moveable dwellings ...	2	5	7
Factories—power ...	7	9	16
—non-power ...	3	2	5
Animals so kept ...	2	—	2
Offensive refuse, etc. ...	2	—	2
Rats and Mice—general ...	25	11	36
—sewers ...	3	—	3
Sewage disposal plants ...	3	2	5
Inns, cafe's, etc. ...	21	—	21
Bakehouses ...	1	—	1
Milk supplies ...	29	5	34
Food shops ...	6	—	6
Petroleum Regulations ...	4	5	9
Slaughterhouse for meat inspection	171	—	171



				Visits	Revisits	Total
In connection with						
Improvement Grants	...	...		5	—	5
Hill Farming Grants	...	...		10	5	15
Miscellaneous visits	...	..	...	31	—	31
Interviews	...	...	...	33	—	33
			Totals	605	267	872

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	40
"	"	in which no action was taken	...	...	...	3
"	"	remedied by informal action	...	...	...	32
"	"	" " statutory action	...	...	...	1
"	"	not yet remedied	...	...	...	4

## Housing

### Public Health Act—Section 92 (Nuisances)

Action was taken under this section in respect of two houses, one notice had been complied with to the end of the year.

### Housing Act

A clearance area scheme in respect of seven houses was presented to the Ministry for approval and for action when alternative accommodation becomes available.

Two houses were dealt with as individual unfit houses and the owners gave undertakings not to re-let.

## Factories Acts

There is one non-power and 22 power factories in your district. Ten visits and 11 re-visits were made to these in the year.

## Destruction of Rats and Mice

Mr. A. E. Allen, the Rodent Operative, continues to work full time in the winter and half time in the summer for this Council and Knighton Rural District Council.

Inspections and treatments are as follows:—

	Total in District	No. of Surveys	No. found Infested	No. Treated	Total Treatments	Total Visits all purposes
Farms	419	364	44	39	43	782
Business Premises etc.	245	15	6	6	6	52
Private premises	806	19	7	7	8	66
Council Properties	18	8	4	4	6	72
	1,488	406	61	56	63	972

## Meat Inspection

The Council continues to operate a public slaughterhouse this is used by three butchers. A fair number of animals are brought in as casualties by farmers, these are mainly sheep.

	Cattle other than Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	33	2	11	705	23
No. inspected	33	2	11	705	23
<b>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci</b>					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	6	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	2	—	192	1
Percentage affected	48%	100%	Nil	27%	4%
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
Carcases of which some part was con- demned	1	—	—	—	1
Percentage affected	3%	Nil	Nil	Nil	4%

There were no cases of cysticercosis

The weight of meat condemned was approximately 414lbs, this is dyed with naphthalene green and sold to the Afonwy Hunt for feeding, after boiling, to the hounds.

## Milk Sampling

Twenty-four samples of milk were taken for bacteriological sampling, none were taken for biological examination or for fat content. Three of the samples were unsatisfactory and informal action was followed by taking further samples. These were unsatisfactory.

There are three dairies on the Council's register of Dairies.

## Ice Cream

There are no premises manufacturing icecream locally and no action was taken under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. No samples were taken for analysis.

## Other Foods

The Welsh Board of Health requests that this year's report shall contain information as to the number, by type, of food premises in the area and for the following additional information:-

Grocers ... ..	40
Butchers ... ..	5
Public Houses ... ..	22
Bakehouses ... ..	24
Hotels ... ..	20
Cafe's, restaurants ... ..	6
School Canteens ... ..	11

There are no premises registered under Section 16 of the new Food and Drugs Acts.

No lectures were given, or any other educational activity on food hygiene.

Condemned food, other than offal etc. from the slaughterhouse, is buried on the Council's refuse tips, tins being first punctured. If the food is very offensive it is burnt by private arrangement in a local furnace. The weight of food condemned during the year was 3 cwts.

## GENERAL

### Refuse Collection

Collection is made as follows :—

Rhayader, Cwmdauddwr and Elan Valley—twice weekly  
 Newbridge-on-Wye, Doldowlod, Llanyre, Crossgates,  
 Penybont and Nantmel—weekly  
 St. Harmon, Pantydwr, Nantgwyn, Bwlchysarnau,  
 Abbeycwmhir and Llangurig Road—fortnightly

Refuse is now tipped at two places—at Newbridge-on-Wye and Gravel Road, Nantmel.

### Public Cemetery

9 interments took place last year. Work was completed on the new entrance buildings comprising a mortuary and rest room. Public conveniences are also provided. The mortuary has been designed so as to facilitate the performance of autopsies.

### Public Conveniences

The new conveniences at Rhayader were completed and consideration given to conveniences at Newbridge-on-Wye.

### Sewerage

The modern plants at Newbridge-on-Wye and Crossgates continue to function.

Work commenced during the year on the construction of new sewers and a new disposal plant for Rhayader. At Newbridge-on-Wye a small plant was installed for the Woodlands area.

## **Public Water Supplies**

No shortages occurred during the past year and samples from all sources were satisfactory.

Work has started on the renewals and improvements to the Rhayader water mains which will eventually include a supply from the Birmingham aqueduct during periods of shortage from our own sources.

A contract was placed for the mains in Nantmel to be extended to the School.

Tenders were invited for the scheme to supply Penybont and the Llandegley area of New Radnor.

